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## **UDOT reports on new A.F. interchange**

**Daily Herald**

**Barbara Christiansen** - North county staff

The first phase of construction to improve Interstate 15 in Utah County will include a new West Main American Fork interchange.

Project Director Dal Hawks and Merrill Jolley, from the Utah Department of Transportation, attended the City Council meeting on Sept. 9 and reported the West Main interchange would be built with the Pioneer Crossing project in Lehi. Construction should begin next spring.

This marks the beginning of \$3.6 billion of improvements. \$2.6 billion is expected to be used for the freeway, with \$1 billion in the rest of the Utah County access projects. In addition, there is about \$1 billion to be spent on commuter rail construction.

For a large portion of the freeway improvements, there will be two lanes added in each direction. It will be increased from four to six lanes between the American Fork West Main interchange and University Parkway in Orem.

"This will be larger than in the Salt Lake area," Hawks said. Six interchanges will be reconstructed. The freeway project construction is anticipated to begin in 2010, with a goal of completing the improvements in Utah County by 2014.

He reported that in a UDOT survey, 86 percent of the residents reported transportation concerns were near the top or middle of their priorities for the government.

"The public has a high level of confidence that we can deliver a quality program, stay within the budget and communicate well with them," he said.